



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY  
LANSING



NANNETTE M. BOWLER  
DIRECTOR

August 1, 2003

Dear Parent:

The Family Independence Agency is sending you an additional \$40 for each of your school-age children (ages 4-18) to help with the cost of school clothing. The additional money will be added to your Bridge Card balance during the first part of August. The School Clothing Allowance is an important tool to help your child succeed in school.

Educators have long known that a child's self-esteem has a big impact on how well the child does in school. How children feel about themselves will affect their ability to succeed and compete with other students. Our School Clothing Allowance was designed to help children start the first day of school with a good feeling about themselves and a good feeling about going to school.

You and your family may decide where you want to buy school clothing. The Family Independence Agency is encouraging clothing stores in your area to work with us on this project and to offer discounts on clothing. Your FIA specialist or community resource coordinator can help you identify any stores that might be offering discounts in your area. A list of stores offering discounts is also included on FIA's internet website at [www.michigan.gov/fia](http://www.michigan.gov/fia) under "What's New."

Good luck to you and your children at the start of this very important school year.

Sincerely,

Nannette M. Bowler